

INFORMATION REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTRY: China/Hong Kong

SUBJECT Communist Purchases in Hong Kong

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PLACE
ACQUIRED

DATE: 10/10/68
INFO: D

December 1949 - February 1950

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NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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1. From December 1949 through February 1950 the Chinese Communists have purchased in Hong Kong and have shipped by rail through Shenchuan to Canton 60,000 drums of gasoline, 40,000 drums of kerosene and 4,000 tons of diesel oil. Most of this fuel was bought from agents for American oil companies in Hong Kong, and from several Communist-operated firms, the largest being the Ta Lung Company. The size of the orders has caused severe competition between Standard Vacuum and the Texas Company.*
2. Since Nationalist bombings of Shenchuan which destroyed 6,000 drums of gasoline, kerosene and oil, the Communists have insisted that no goods will be accepted at Shenchuan unless transportation to Canton is immediately available.
3. Communist-controlled firms in Hong Kong have been purchasing large stocks of American and British industrial, agricultural, business and other catalogs and illustrative magazines. These have been bought from small book shops and paid for by weight.**
4. The Tai Wah Company***, Queen's Road, Hong Kong, has received an order totalling over Hong Kong (HK) \$200,000 from Canton for a number of Leica cameras and Rolex "Oyster" wrist watches.

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* Comment. This does not agree with previous reports concerning the reluctance of American oil companies to ship to the Communists; see

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Comment. Apparently these are purchased second-hand, probably for the paper content.

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Comment. This may be the Tai Wah Provincial Supply Company, listed in the 1950 Hong Kong Directory at 8 Queen's Road Central.

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CLASSIFICATION

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[illegible]

This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 13 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the

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☒ Declassified

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